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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 SR-04
AID-05 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
/112 W

-----034828 271905Z /46

R-250524Z JUL 79
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4050
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8335

GENEVA FOR UNHCR; CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/24/79(SHERMAN, R.) OR-P

TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, SREF, PK, AF

SUBJ: (U) AFGHAN REFUGEES -TOTALS CONTINUE TO GROW WHILE GOP

AWAITS UNHCR ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 7900. (B) ISLAMABAD 5995. (C) ISLAMABAD
8265 (NOTAL). (D) ISLAMABAD 7638 (NOTAL)

1. (LOU) MFA DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN AMIR USMAN TOLD
EMBOFF 24 JULY THAT. AS OF 15 JULY, GOP COUNT OF AFGHAN REFUGEES
RESIDENT IN PAKISTAN HAS REACHED 135,000. FIGURE USED, WE UNDER-
STAND. BY PAK REP TO RECENT REFUGEE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.
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FIGURE OF 140,000 USED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY (REFTEL C) WAS
EXTRAPOLATION FROM OFFICIAL FIGURE. ADDING ANOTHER 5,000.
ACCORDING TO USMAN; FLOW CONTINUES AT ABOUT 5,000 PER
WEEK AND, IF ANYTHING, IS INCREASING.

2. (U) ISLAMABAD INDEPENDENT "MUSLIM" OF 23 JULY CARRIES
FRONT-PAGE STORY ON UNHCR REFUGEE ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN.
THE STORY REPORTS THE UNHCR HAS "AGREED IN PRINCIPAL" TO
ASSIST PAKISTAN IN COPING WITH PROBLEM. A TEAM OF "HIGH-

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POWERED EXPERTS" IS EXPECTED TO VISIT PAKISTAN IN MID-SEPTEMBER TO EVALUATE THE EXACT REQUIREMENTS AND TO ARRANGE TO "HARNESS VARIOUS AID SOURCES" TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN ON THE GOP.

3. (U) AS BACKGROUND, "MUSLIM" STORY SAYS REFUGEE FLOW BEGAN ON DAY OF AFGHAN COUP IN APRIL 1978. AN AMNESTY OFFERED TO THE REFUGEES IN MAY RESULTED IN ONLY VZRY FEW RETURNING TO AFGHANISTAN. DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO ISLAMABAD OF AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DOST (REFTEL D), THE "MUSLIM" REPORTS, THE SUBJECT OF THE REFUGEES WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

4. (C) COMMENT

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